

one examines the record, you see a consistent pattern. That consistent pattern says if you are a pregnant woman, you are out of luck, and if you are an infant baby, certainly you do not count, and if you are from rural America, you can be ignored, and if you are poor, you do not matter, and if you are a senior citizen, you are too late.

This weekend we will celebrate Mother's Day. Mothers have always taught us, and we are reminded on Mother's Day, get your priorities right. How we spend our moneys and where we spend our moneys says a lot about us. It says what is important. It says to America that those who spend more than \$200,000 certainly are of more consequence than those who earn less.

It says to America that mothers do not count. It says to the working America we have nothing at all to celebrate this Mother's Day.

WHERE IS THE CUT?

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, where is the cut? This chart shows that under the Republican budget plan, Medicare spending will increase by nearly \$100 billion over the next 7 years.

Now, this second chart that we are going to show here shows that spending per recipient for welfare recipients will go from \$4,700 up to \$6,300 per person.

Now, I know this has to come as a complete shock to my friends on the other side of the aisle who spare no opportunity to scream about imagined Medicare cuts. They look at America and they see only two kinds of people: The wealthy and the victimized. The wealthy are, of course, evil and in need of punishment. The victims need protection, and they think that only liberal Democrats here in Congress can provide that protection.

Well, the liberal political world view has been almost totally rejected by the American people. Americans are tired of excuses. They are tired of the slick blame game, and they will not be scared by the liberal Democrat shrieks they hear here in Congress anymore. These are imaginary cuts. They do not exist.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with Mother's Day on Sunday, we are reminded of the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother." And, my, how our fathers and our mothers and our seniors all over this country have been honored this week. They have been honored with \$300 billion, almost, of Medicare cuts, and they can bring charts up here all day and all night and all week long.

Apparently, they want to limit the time to discuss this to the bare minimum, but they cannot deny the fact that under existing law they are cutting Medicare by almost \$300 billion.

It is not a matter of what happens here in the Halls of Congress. It is the way the American people will view these cuts. If you do not understand a cut is a cut, go out and ask the seniors across this country and the people that care for them what it means that in order to get the same level of care, your medical deductible is doubled, your premiums go up every month, suddenly you have to pay for home health care and for lab services.

You may not call that a cut, but a senior citizen that faces the decision of whether to eat or whether to get health care is going to view it as the very serious cut that it is.

ENTERING THE BUDGET DEBATE WITH FACTS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, you know, Sunday is Mothers' Day. I do not remember my mother in the 40 years that I have been her son, worrying about the Federal budget on Mother's Day. I just do not see ourselves sitting around the house and ringing, "Oh, my goodness, the Democrats are not going to get their way in Congress. Mother's Day is ruined."

You know, my mom, my family, we do just fine without the Federal Government running our lives, and that is what the American people want: less Federal Government intervention in the family.

The families of America want the Federal Government out of the picture. The best way to protect the family is to make sure that we have a balanced budget so that there will be a Government that is not totally bankrupt in our future, which my mother's grandchildren and their grandchildren will enjoy.

You know, a great political campaign was run on this slogan: "If not us, who; if not now, when; if not this, what?"

The Democrats' answer to that question, "Well, if not us, somebody; if not now, someday; and if not this, we do not know."

You know, it is time to come to the table with specifics. Are you going to balance the budget, or are you going to sit here and scare everybody in America that the sky is falling? Let us get responsible, let us enter the debate with the true spirit of facts and not rhetoric.

MEDICARE IS ON THE BLOCK

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker and I can probably agree on one thing; and that is, we hope everybody has a happy Mother's Day. We hope they are not worried about the Federal budget and the deficit problems.

However, I would observe I have looked at this budget carefully, I have seen what it does to Medicare. As someone observed yesterday, the best thing you can do for mother this year is do not send flowers, send a check.

Because the fact is there is a real cut in Medicare, \$300 billion, and, yes, I have heard that, well, the spending increases. But what happens if, instead of two people there are now three people entitled to it? What happens if you now have higher deductibles when you go to the physician? You have to pay more out of pocket. You are now paying for lab fees you did not pay for before. And, yes, medical inflation in this country still rises faster than regular inflation.

The fact is the matter is that in order to keep current or even slightly current, there is a real cut that is proposed in this budget in the program that affects all of us. So Medicare is on the block, and I think it is an important statement.

Finally, what is more obnoxious to me about this cut it does not do anything about the deficit. It does not do anything for seniors. What if does is pay for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans in the tax cut package that has already passed here.

ACHIEVING A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just came over because I was hearing some of the comments.

What concerns me very, very much is what is happening from the Democrats while Republicans have designed a budget that will balance in the year 2002. Everybody, I would hope, thinks that there is some good in achieving a zero deficit, balancing our budget and not spending any more than we take in.

Yet the other side of the aisle, and I usually am not partisan on these things, have seen this as an opportunity to criticize every one of these cuts that the Republicans are making, without presenting to us their idea of where we should be.

If you just look at what the President sent over here as far as his budget, his deficit spending, his spending more than what we are taking in in the year 1996 is 211, Republicans 156; in the last year, 2002, the Republicans' proposal is down to zero, zero deficit. We are living within the budget, within the revenues that we are taking into this Government. The President is 318.

Mr. Speaker, the other side should not criticize. They should be forthright